

Bill Klein 1965
ASHLEY

INTRODUCTION

The following is a brief summary of Forest insect conditions observed on the Ashley National Forest during 1965. Material for this report was gathered from aerial survey data and on-the-ground examination of infested areas.

The mountain pine beetle and the silver spotted tussock moth were the only significant insect problems noted on the Forest this year. With the exception of the Oweep Creek infestation, mountain pine beetle activity is low and should remain low through 1966. Populations of the silver spotted tussock moth declined with even less activity expected next year. A more complete discussion of these insects follows.

Mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk. (monticolae)

Activity of mountain pine beetle in lodgepole and ponderosa pine has declined steadily on the Ashley National Forest since 1962. An aggressive suppression program and natural factors have reduced the beetle problem to an endemic level. At the present time no epidemic centers of Black Hills beetle, with the exception of Oweep Creek, exist on the Ashley National Forest and the trend is expected to remain at a low level through next year. Ground examination of the Oweep Creek infestation was not made this year, however, the epidemic trend will probably continue through next year.

Examinations were made following aerial detection surveys and after beetles had become established in newly attacked trees. A large number of two-year old beetle killed trees retained most of their needles making it very difficult for aerial observers to distinguish between new and old faded trees. Consequently many "hot spots" were mapped by the aerial observer. Ground examinations of these "hot spots" failed to show significant beetle activity. In all areas examined, brood densities were low. New attack trees contained a high number of predators and parasites. Build-up ratios were always in favor of the "red tops". Most areas checked had only one new attack for every 8 - 10 trees killed last year. Infested trees are widely scattered.

Examination of what appeared to be a "hot spot" of beetle activity in Hell Canyon showed that very few new attacks had been made. Brood densities were low and many predators and parasites were observed in the beetle galleries. Build-up ratio was approximately one new attack for every 5 - 6 trees killed last year. Infested trees are widely scattered.

Silver spotted tussock moth.

Population of the silver spotted tussock moth, Halisidota ingens Hy. Edw. infesting pinyon pine in Sowers Canyon have been reduced to a low level by natural factors. No new tents or overwintering larvae were found this fall. The infestation is expected to remain at a low level through next year.

11/11/66
Date

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